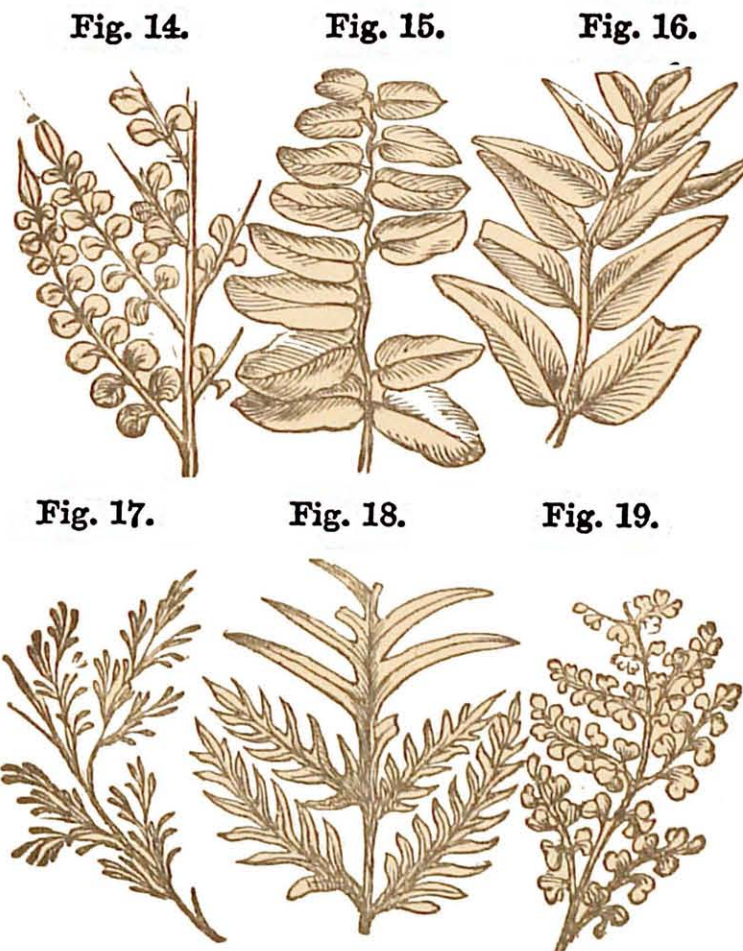


formed no small proportion of the entire flora of the period. Francis estimates the recent dorsiferous ferns of Great Britain at thirty-five species, and the species of all the other genera at six more,—forty-one species in all ; and as the flowering plants of the country do not fall short of fourteen hundred species, the ferns bear to them the rather small proportion of about one to thirty-five ; whereas of the British Coal Measure flora, in which we do not yet reckon quite three hundred species of plants, about a hundred and twenty were ferns. Three-sevenths of the entire carboniferous flora of Britain belonged to this familiar class ; and for about fifty species more



FERNS OF THE COAL MEASURES.*

Fig. 14, *Neuropteris Loshii*.
 Fig. 16, *Neuropteris acuminata*.
 Fig. 18, *Pecopteris heterophylla*.

Fig. 15, *Neuropteris gigantea*.
 Fig. 17, *Sphenopteris affinis*.
 Fig. 19, *Sphenopteris dilata*.